

Amendments to the Specification

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 6, line 12 of the specification as follows:

In a further aspect the invention provides a soluble CD8 protein which differs from the specific protein defined above, in one or more of the following respects: i) methionine present at the N-terminus; ii) one or a few amino acid residues absent from the N-terminus; iii) one or a few amino acid residues added at the N-terminus consisting of part or all of the sequence 'leu - leu - leu - his - ala - ala - arg - pro - ' (SEQ ID NO: 27) (the signal sequence); iv) one or a few amino acid residues absent from the C-terminus, but with at least a part of the membrane-proximal stalk region i.e. the region defined by amino acids 116 - 120, retained; v) one or a few amino acid residues added at the C-terminus consisting of part or all of the sequence '- ala - pro - arg - pro - pro - thr - pro - ala - ' (SEQ ID NO: 28); vi) part or all of the CD8 cytoplasmic membrane peptide sequence added at the C-terminus; vii) conservative variants of one or many amino acid residues which do not materially affect the CD8 functionality of the protein; viii) mutations which do alter the CD8 functionality, including those which alter or abolish or reverse the property of inhibiting the action of cytotoxic T cell lymphocytes to kill target cells; ix) the addition of a protein or peptide, at the N or C terminus for the purposes of purification; x) the provision of a label for detection; said protein folded as a dimer and having the property of affecting the action of cytotoxic T cell lymphocytes to kill target cells. Particularly provided is a protein as described above, in which E replaces N at position 99. Also provided is a protein as described above, in which EE replaces QN at position 54, 55.